

# **Our God is YHWH**

*A Study of Ezekiel's Prophecy*

## **The Last Battle**

**Lesson 16**

**Ezekiel 38-39**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*

*December 15, 2019*

# Ezekiel

Our God/Lord is YAHWEH/LORD/GOD																				593-571 BC = 22 years of ministry																				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
1 Ezek. called	the wrath of the Lord GOD																				the goodness of the Lord GOD																			
	<u>judgment for Jerusalem</u>										<u>judgment for the nations</u>										<u>restoration of Israel</u>					<u>restoration of the LORD’S presence</u>														
	4-7 ① the coming judgment of Jerusalem										24 ① the boiling pot · the sign of Ezekiel										34 ① Israel’s Shepherd					40-42 ① the temple														
	8-11 ② God’s glory departs from Jerusalem										25 ② Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia										35 ② Mount Seir					43-46 ② the service														
	12-14 ③ imminent judgment without hope										26-28 ③ Tyre & Sidon										36 ③ a new covenant					47-48 ③ the land														
	15-19 ④ the unfaithfulness of Israel										29-32 ④ Egypt										37 ④ the dry bones					YHWH SHAMMAH “the LORD is there”														
20-23 ⑤ the unanswerable closing argument										33 ⑤ the watchman · the fall of Jerusalem										38-39 ⑤ Gog																				
glory revealed					glory departed					Jerusalem siege begins										Jerusalem destroyed					glory restored															
593 BC										588 BC										586 BC					571 BC															

# The Restoration of Israel

- ▶ The Good Shepherd (34) – “I am against the shepherds of Israel”
- ▶ A Prophecy Against Mount Seir (35) – everlasting enmity
- ▶ A Prophecy to the Mountains of Israel (36:1-15) – The land will be cleansed
- ▶ A New Covenant (36:16-38) – The people will be cleansed
- ▶ The Valley of Dry Bones (37:1-14) – Restoration through preaching the Gospel
- ▶ One Nation Under God (37:15-28) – The union of Judah and Joseph/Ephraim
- ▶ The Last Battle (38-39) – the defeat of Gog and his hordes

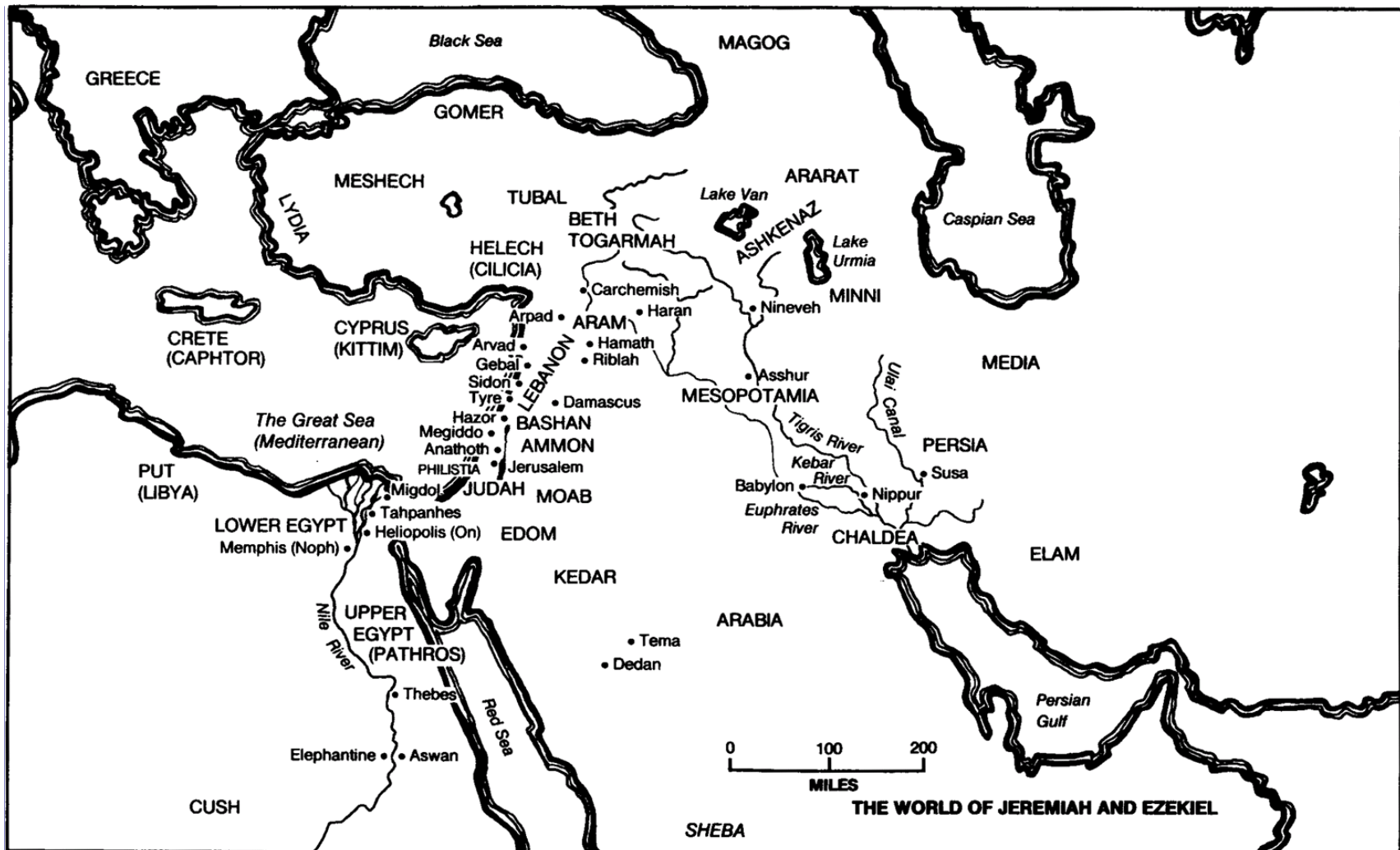


# The Last Battle

- ▶ Introduction (38:1-2) - a prophecy against Gog of the land of Magog
- ▶ “Thus says the Sovereign YHWH . . .”
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> message (38:3-9) – Gog called to go against Israel
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> message (38:10-13) – Gog’s plan to plunder Israel
- ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> message (38:14-16) – Gog, the agent of the Sovereign YHWH
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> message (38:17-23) – God’s plan and purpose
- ▶ 5<sup>th</sup> message (39:1-16) – the destruction of Gog and his allies by God
- ▶ 6<sup>th</sup> message (39:17–24) – the glory of God among the nations
- ▶ 7<sup>th</sup> message (39:25-29) – the restoration of Israel

# The Prophecy Against Gog (38:1-2)

- ▶ Gog – a leader of the sons of Reuben (1 Chronicles 5:4)
- ▶ Magog – a son of Japheth (Genesis 10:2) – Father of the Scythians?
- ▶ Rosh – prince of Rosh v. chief prince
- ▶ Meschech and Tubal – sons of Japheth
- ▶ A real person (Gog) and real nations with historical roots



Cooper, L. E. (1994). *New American Commentary: Ezekiel* (Vol. 17, p. 245). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Message (38:3-9)

- ▶ The Lord YHWH is against Gog and an alliance of nations
- ▶ The exiles of Israel are back in the land, living securely
- ▶ Gog is to be ready to obey the summons of Sovereign YHWH
- ▶ The Lord YHWH brings Gog and his allies to invade the peaceful nation
- ▶ “In the latter years,” Gog will come like a storm into the land

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Message (38:10-13)**

- ▶ On that day, Gog will devise an evil plan
- ▶ Attack a people at rest and living securely at the center of the world
- ▶ Objective: seize plunder – silver, gold, cattle, goods – “great spoil”
- ▶ 3 more nations join the campaign, enticed by material gain



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Message (38:14-16)

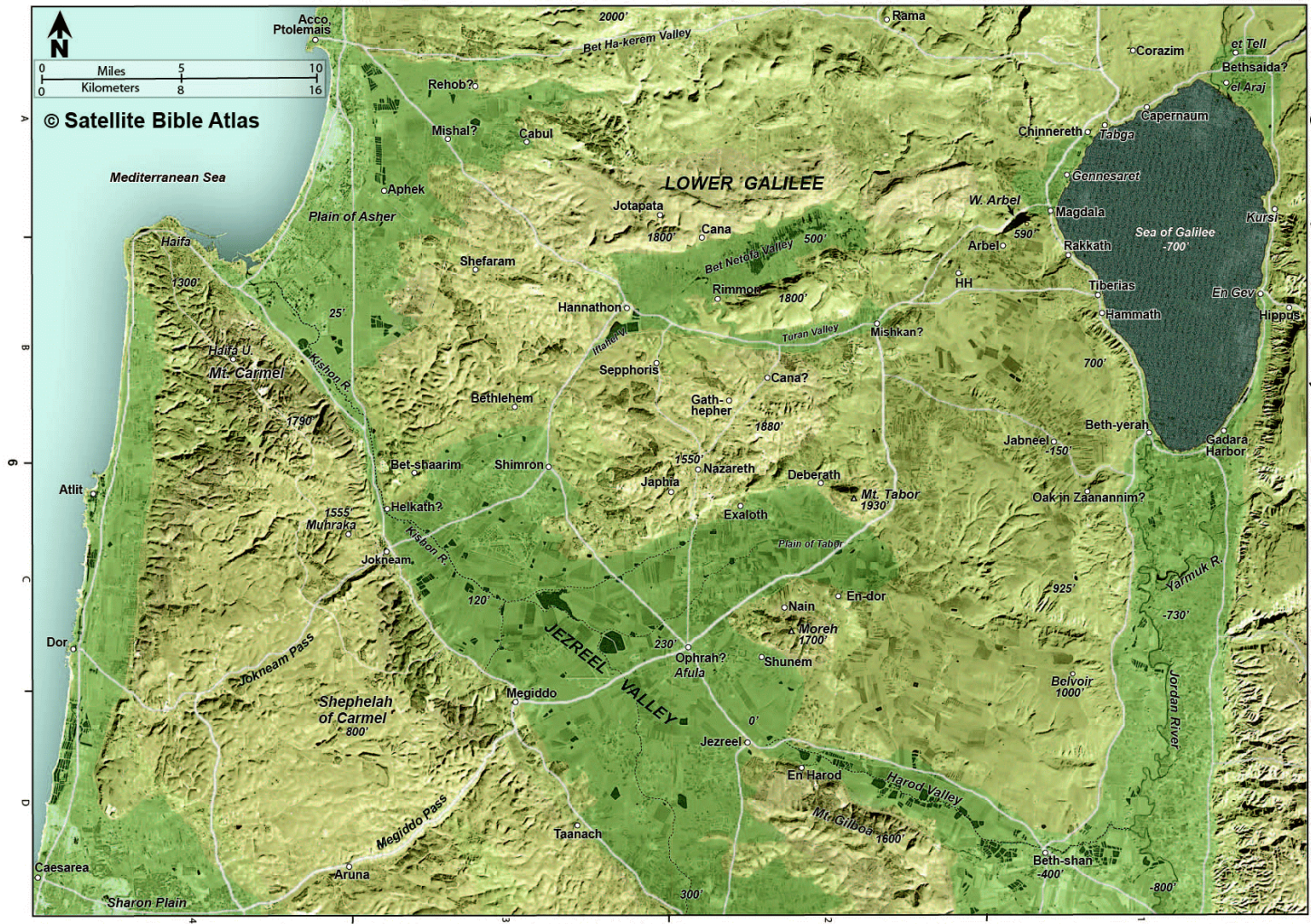
- ▶ The people of YHWH are living securely
- ▶ The mighty army of Gog will come from their place in the remote north
- ▶ It will come about in the last days
- ▶ The Lord YHWH will bring Gog against “My people” and “My land” in the last days
- ▶ Purpose: The nations will see and “will know Me when I am sanctified through you”

## 4<sup>th</sup> Message (38:17-23)

- ▶ The plan announced through the prophets
  - Psalm 2:1-12; Joel 2:20; 3:9-21; Zeph 3:15-20, Zech 12:1-9
- ▶ Gog will come against the land of Israel “on that day”
- ▶ Lord YHWH will respond with “fury and blazing wrath”
  - A severe world-wide earthquake
  - Every man’s sword will be against his brother
  - Judgment by pestilence, blood, torrential rain, hailstones, fire and brimstone
- ▶ The Lord YHWH will magnify, sanctify Himself, and make Himself known
- ▶ Many nations will know He is YHWH when He acts in their sight







1-4 Regional Map: Jezreel Valley and Lower Galilee



## 5<sup>th</sup> Message (39:1-16)

- ▶ The Lord YHWH: “I am against you, O Gog” (39:1-6)
  - I will . . . bring you against the land
  - I will . . . strike your weapons of war (bow and arrow)
  - I will . . . give you as food for predatory birds and animals
  - I will . . . send fire upon Magog – the home land
- ▶ The nations will know that YHWH is the Holy One in Israel (39:7-8)
  - I will make known My holy name
  - I will not let My name be profaned anymore
  - I will make the nations know that I am YHWH, the Holy One of Israel
- ▶ This is the long predicted day – “the day of which I have spoken” (39:9-16)
  - Weapons of war to be firewood for Israel for 7 years
  - Burial of the dead horde will take 7 months
  - The valley of Hamon-Gog and the city, Hamonah
- ▶ “A memorial on the day that I glorify Myself, declares the Lord YHWH”

## 6<sup>th</sup> Message (39:17–24)

- ▶ Assemble the birds and the beasts for the great feast on the sacrifice
- ▶ “I will set My glory among the nations” for all to see “My judgment”
- ▶ “The house of Israel will know that I am YHWH from this day onward”
- ▶ The nations will know that the house of Israel was judged for iniquity and faithlessness
  - Given into the hand of their adversaries for death by the sword
  - The Lord YHWH hid his face from them for their sins
  - The remnant, now in the Promised Land, are preserved by a Substitute sacrifice

## 7<sup>th</sup> Message (39:25-29)

- ▶ The end of the story
  - Restore the fortunes of Jacob
  - Mercy for the whole house of Israel
  - Jealous for My holy name
- ▶ The house of Israel will forget their disgrace and unfaithfulness
- ▶ The Lord YHWH will be sanctified through Israel in the sight of the nations
- ▶ The house of Israel will know that their God is YHWH through exile and restoration
- ▶ “I will not hide My face from them any longer” because of His work of salvation

# When is this great battle?

- ▶ Israel brought from exile into the land under the everlasting covenant of peace
- ▶ A time of peace, security, prosperity
- ▶ Primitive weapons of war – wood for the fire
- ▶ Only YHWH engages in the battle
- ▶ A great display for all the nations that the Lord YHWH is the Holy One of Israel
- ▶ Revelation 20:7-10 cites a great invasion of the nations, Gog and Magog
- ▶ The context of Ezekiel 38-39 suggests a final battle – “never hide His face . . .”



# **“I am YHWH, the Holy One in Israel”**

- ▶ The sin of defiling the name of God by unfaithfulness
- ▶ The priority of the holiness of God for the people of God
- ▶ We are a holy nation – aliens and strangers (1 Peter 2:9-11)
- ▶ “Come out from among them and be separate” (2 Corinthians 6:17)
- ▶ The last battle ends the struggle to be a holy people